

Signtec IMAGING

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**U.S EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205**

The EPA has a history of jumping into projects without using the best methodology and without understanding the ramifications. The Portland Harbor purification effort is a textbook example. It is based entirely on scientific studies from 2004 and 2008, and it ignores more recent studies showing how much decontamination the Willamette has done on its own. This is why it entails a much higher level of dredging than necessary. I hope the EPA will come to understand that the best approach is the one with the lowest cost and the lowest impact on both the physical environment and the business environment.

Anything that affects the Willamette River is going to have an impact on everyone nearby. Access to the river affects what kind of economic activity and recreation goes on and what kind of money is spent. Unfortunately, the proposed cleanup will have a devastating economic impact because large segments of the river will be shut down for constant construction. I am the owner of the Signtec Imaging Corporation. For six years, my wife and I have worked full-time to provide custom signs and graphics to those who want them. Mine is a low-margin business to begin with. I certainly can't afford to pay more in taxes. I am not only affected by my own operating costs, but also by the costs of other people and whether or not they have any money to spend on signs.

Historically, the EPA has been guilty of charging into things instead of working with the local community to come up with solutions that are more palatable, and in the long run, a lot more successful. If the EPA decides to pay attention to the concerns of Portland residents and consider their feedback on alternative plans, it will likely earn the support of the community.

Sincerely,

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Owner